

ORIGINAL



BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

KRISTIN K. MAYES  
Chairman  
GARY PIERCE  
Commissioner  
PAUL NEWMAN  
Commissioner  
SANDRA D. KENNEDY  
Commissioner  
BOB STUMP  
Commissioner

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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

AUG 5 2010

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*RDG*

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
OF HUALAPAI VALLEY SOLAR LLC, IN  
CONFORMANCE WITH THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED  
STATUTES §§ 40-360.03 AND 40-360.06,  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY  
AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF  
THE HVS PROJECT, A 340 MW  
PARABOLIC TROUGH CONCENTRATING  
SOLAR THERMAL GENERATING  
FACILITY AND AN ASSOCIATED  
GEN-TIE LINE INTERCONNECTING  
THE GENERATING FACILITY TO THE  
EXISTING MEAD-PHOENIX 500kV  
TRANSMISSION LINE, THE MEAD-  
LIBERTY 345kV TRANSMISSION LINE  
OR THE MOENKOPI-EL DORADO  
500kV TRANSMISSION LINE.

Docket No. L-00000NN-09-0541-00151

Case No. 151

REPLY IN SUPPORT OF  
APPLICANT'S APPLICATION  
TO LIFT STAY

Hualapai Valley Solar LLC ("HVS") provides this Reply in support of HVS'  
Application to Lift Stay on the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility ("CEC")  
granted by the Arizona Corporation Commission (the "Commission") in Decision No.  
71684 on April 14, 2010, and immediately stayed by the same Order.

1 On July 8, 2010, HVS filed an Application to Lift Stay, in which HVS requested to  
2 have this matter set on the Open Meeting agenda as soon as possible so that the  
3 Commission may lift the stay on the CEC and allow HVS to proceed with the  
4 development of the Project.  
5

6 On July 29, 2010, Denise Bensusan and Susan Moore-Bayer each filed a Response  
7 to HVS' Application to Lift Stay. These Responses reurge their positions on water usage.  
8 This brief replies to their Responses.  
9

10 This matter involves HVS' application for a CEC for the Hualapai Valley Solar  
11 Project, a 340 MW parabolic trough concentrating solar thermal generating facility and an  
12 associated gen-tie line (collectively, the "Project"), in Mohave County. The benefits of the  
13 Project, including benefits to Mohave County, have been well documented in both the  
14 January and June hearings.<sup>1</sup> To address the concerns raised by some residents of Mohave  
15 County about the Project's water usage, this record contains detailed hydrology studies  
16 and other evidence related to water. The evidence is overwhelming that there is ample  
17 available groundwater to operate the Project and HVS' plan to purchase effluent from the  
18 City of Kingman's Hilltop Waste Water Treatment Plant ("WWTP") will reduce the  
19 Project's use of groundwater even further. To address the water issue, the CEC contains  
20 Condition No. 4 that limits groundwater use and supports the use of effluent. The  
21  
22  
23

24 <sup>1</sup> The January hearing before the Line Siting Committee is alternatively referenced in this  
25 brief as the "Committee hearing," and citations to the transcript from this hearing use the  
26 following format: "Tr. at ...". The June hearing before Administrative Law Judge Sarah  
N. Harpring, is alternatively referenced in this brief as the "§ 40-252 hearing," and  
citations to the transcript from this hearing use the following format: "§ 40-252 Proc. Tr.  
at ...".

1 evidentiary record also contains detailed discussions of the various cooling technologies  
2 and an explanation for why this particular plant can and must be wet-cooled.  
3

4 **I. There is sufficient available groundwater for the Project.**

5 HVS has demonstrated that there is sufficient available groundwater for the Project.  
6 HVS presented William Victor, of Montgomery & Associates ("M&A"), as a witness in  
7 this case.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Victor is a registered professional geologist with a graduate degree in  
8 hydrology and 30 years of experience in investigating hydrogeologic conditions. Tr. at  
9 213:18-214:3. Led by Mr. Victor, M&A has conducted groundwater studies in the  
10 Hualapai Valley since 2005. Tr. at 217:18-218:1. M&A then compiled a comprehensive  
11 groundwater flow model that simulates the effect of groundwater pumping on groundwater  
12 levels in the Hualapai groundwater basin. Tr. at 214:15-215:5. This model was  
13 thoroughly reviewed by staff hydrologists with the Arizona Department of Water  
14 Resources ("ADWR") and approved by ADWR for use in projecting groundwater impacts  
15 of proposed developments. Tr. at 218:2-9.  
16  
17

18 In June and July of 2009, to investigate the potential impact of the Project on  
19 groundwater levels in the Hualapai basin, M&A used the ADWR-approved model to  
20 simulate groundwater levels over 30 years under a worst-case assumption that the Project  
21 would pump 3,000 acre-feet ("AF") of groundwater per year.<sup>3</sup> Tr. at 218:10-17. The  
22  
23

24 <sup>2</sup> Tr. at 212-237, 471-72, and 478-481; § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 60-63, 120-23, 153-169, 174,  
25 180, 207, and 240-49.

26 <sup>3</sup> Actual groundwater use by the Project will be less than 3,000 AF per year. The CEC  
limits groundwater use for cooling purposes to 2,400 AF per year. In addition, HVS  
intends to use effluent from the City's Hilltop WWTP to meet some of this demand. Tr. at

1 results were reported in a technical memorandum issued in November 2009. Mr. Victor  
2 concluded that the impact on groundwater levels from the Project would meet the criteria  
3 for impacts on existing wells imposed by ADWR in Active Management Areas ("AMAs")  
4 (even though the Hualapai Valley is not in an AMA). Tr. at 215:16-19. The model  
5 projected that, after operating for 30 years at 3,000 AF per year, the Project's incremental  
6 impact will be less than one foot of water level change for wells in the nearest residential  
7 areas. Tr. at 215:20-24.  
8

9  
10 Based on his analysis, Mr. Victor also concluded that only a minute fraction of  
11 groundwater stored in the Hualapai groundwater basin is currently being used. Tr. at  
12 215:11-15. According to his calculations, there is sufficient water in the aquifer to meet  
13 the Project's lifetime groundwater needs without significantly impacting other existing  
14 groundwater users. Tr. at 216:6-9; § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 241:7-17. Finally, Mr. Victor  
15 noted that the amount of water HVS intends to use each year is approximately one-half of  
16 the amount of groundwater set aside by ADWR for the HVS site land when it was planned  
17 for residential use.<sup>4</sup> Tr. at 215:25-216:5. A summary of Mr. Victor's conclusions is  
18 attached to this brief (slide 4 of Exhibit HVS-9 to Committee hearing).  
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20  
21

22 111:5-10; § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 65:5-13. The Hilltop WWTP is currently producing over  
23 almost to 2,300 AF per year by 2016. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 255:13-17, 269:25-270:6.

24 <sup>4</sup> Regarding Ms. Bayer's statement that "there is a material change in the demand for water  
25 and no water report has ever been submitted to the ADWR," there is no applicable report  
26 that HVS could have submitted in this situation. ADWR's Adequate Water Supply  
Program applies only to residential subdivisions. ADWR website,  
<http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/WaterManagement/AAWS/default.htm>. There is no  
analogous program for industrial developments. HVS referred to the adequate water

1           Neither Ms. Bensusan nor Ms. Bayer provided evidence to contradict Mr. Victor's  
2 analysis and conclusions regarding the availability of sufficient groundwater and the  
3 magnitude of impacts on groundwater levels and surrounding wells. Instead, both take  
4 issue with Mohave County's water-related zoning and planning decisions. This is the  
5 wrong forum for those complaints. Entertaining them here would amount to an  
6 impermissible collateral attack on the County's decisions. *See Phelps Dodge Corp. v. El*  
7 *Paso Corp.*, 213 Ariz. 400, 404 (App. 2006). Nevertheless, Mohave County, through the  
8 testimony of County Manager Ron Walker and Divisional Manager of Planning and  
9 Zoning, Christine Ballard, explained the thorough and complete process followed by the  
10 County in amending its land use plan. *See Summary of Mohave County's Testimony*  
11 (Exhibit MC-1 to § 40-252 hearing). Prior to amending its land use plan, the County  
12 received and considered detailed materials on water usage, including public comments.  
13 § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 312:1-313:12.

17           In addition, Ms. Bensusan inaccurately claims that: "Under conservative estimates,  
18 [the Commission's] failure to [require dry cooling] would result in upwards of 8,000 acre-  
19 feet of water per year *of further depletion* [of the Hualapai Valley aquifer]," Bensusan  
20 Response at 2 (emphasis added). The existing CEC limits the Project's water use to 3,000  
21 AF per year for all uses and 2,400 AF of groundwater per year for cooling purposes.  
22 Condition No. 4. Even assuming Ms. Bensusan's other numbers and theories are accurate,  
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25  
26           supply analysis performed for the residential subdivision that was previously planned for  
the site simply to demonstrate that sufficient groundwater exists.

1 the Project could not have an impact on the aquifer that is two to three times greater than  
2 its maximum total water usage.

3 All of Ms. Bensusan's requests of the Commission are premised on the conclusion  
4 that the Project, as authorized by the CEC, will threaten the availability of groundwater in  
5 the Hualapai basin. If the Project will not threaten groundwater availability, imposing  
6 additional restrictions on the Project's groundwater use would unnecessarily threaten the  
7 Project's viability. HVS has demonstrated that the Project, contrary to Ms. Bensusan's  
8 claims, will not significantly impact the availability of groundwater in the Hualapai basin.  
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11 **II. The Project will not proceed with dry or hybrid cooling.**

12 A. Wet cooling is appropriate.

13 HVS agrees that water is a valuable natural resource that the Commission should  
14 consider in approving new power plants. Whether concentrating solar plants ("CSPs")  
15 constructed in dry climates should use wet or dry cooling should be addressed on a case-  
16 by-case basis by balancing the costs and benefits of wet versus dry cooling. That is, in  
17 fact, what other states, including California, are doing.  
18  
19

20 In her response brief, Ms. Bensusan states: "[A]ll of the most recent projects in the  
21 desert regions of California and Nevada will be either dry cooled or use effluent."  
22 Bensusan Response at 2. This is an incorrect statement. The Abengoa Mojave Solar  
23 Project is a wet-cooled CSP plant planned to be built in the California portion of the  
24 Mojave Desert. Staff of the California Energy Commission released an assessment on  
25 May 25, 2010 concluding that "[t]he proposed use of *groundwater* for industrial cooling  
26

1 would not significantly impact existing groundwater levels in the HVGB wells, the basin  
2 balance, or the quality of groundwater in the basin.” Supplemental Staff Assessment (Part  
3 B) of the Abengoa Mojave Solar Project, at 5.9-45 (May 25, 2010) (emphasis added). The  
4 full assessment is available through the California Energy Commission’s website. Docket  
5 No. 09-AFC-5.  
6

7 In this case, the evidence overwhelmingly supports the Commission’s decision to  
8 authorize wet cooling for the Project. Unlike many of the dry-cooled projects mentioned  
9 by Ms. Bensusan, there is both groundwater and effluent available for this Project. § 40-  
10 252 Proc. Tr. at 233:13-234:4. In this case, wet cooling would benefit the City of  
11 Kingman and its residents by providing a purchaser for the WWTP’s effluent. This  
12 revenue will be used to pay for improvements that would otherwise be borne by the  
13 ratepayers and taxpayers of Kingman. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 281:24-282:9. In addition,  
14 HVS’ planned use of effluent is consistent with and supportive of Arizona’s Blue Ribbon  
15 Panel on Water Sustainability. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 235:18-236:2  
16  
17

18 As Mr. LaRow testified during the June hearing, dry cooling would increase the  
19 cost of energy from this Project by an estimated seven to nine percent.<sup>5</sup> § 40-252 Proc. Tr.  
20 at 110:6-7, 114:5-9. Although Ms. Bensusan focuses on the associated capital costs, dry  
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22  
23 <sup>5</sup> Ms. Bensusan also attempts to discount the estimate of a seven to nine percent increase  
24 in costs resulting from dry cooling. This estimate comes from a comprehensive report by  
25 the Department of Energy (“DOE”) for a “parabolic trough plant located in the Mojave  
26 Desert.” The paragraph cited in Ms. Bensusan’s Response for the principal that dry  
cooling costs are site specific refers to “a site in New Mexico” where “maximum daytime  
temperatures are considerably lower than in the Mojave Desert.” Here, because the site is  
a desert area, seven to nine percent is the most applicable estimate available for the  
increased costs of dry cooling at the Project.

1 cooling affects a CSP plant financially in multiple ways.<sup>6</sup> First, operating the fans in a dry  
2 cooling system requires a considerable amount of electricity. This internal consumption of  
3 energy reduces the amount of electricity available for sale and increases the unit cost at  
4 which the plant must sell the remaining electricity in order to maintain the same amount of  
5 revenue to service its debt. This is called the “parasitic load” of a plant and was explained  
6 by Mr. LaRow during the Committee hearing. Tr. at 164:24-165:17.

8           Dry-cooled plants are also much less efficient than wet-cooled plants at high  
9 temperatures. A graph in the report by the Department of Energy (“DOE”) shows that the  
10 output of a dry-cooled CSP plant decreases as the temperature increases.<sup>7</sup> Appendix A,  
11 p.ix (Figure 5). The output of the plant begins dropping faster at approximately 85  
12 degrees and plummets at around 100 degrees. At 113 degrees, a CSP plant that would be  
13 producing 280 MWs using wet cooling could only produce 165 MWs using dry cooling.  
14 Mr. LaRow discussed this effect during the Committee hearing. Tr. at 165:18-166:22; *see*  
15 *also* Direct Prefiled Testimony of Michael LaRow (Exhibit HVS-6 to Committee hearing),  
16 at 9.

17           HVS opposes Ms. Bensusan’s suggestion that the Project utilize a “hybrid system”  
18 for the same reason -- it would be an unnecessary, significant cost increase. The DOE  
19

20  
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22  
23 <sup>6</sup> Ms. Bensusan also seems to imply that the Commission should not value money from the  
24 federal government as highly as it would value money coming directly from a private  
25 developer. Bensusan Response at 7-8. Although HVS proposes to use federal aid,  
26 assistance from the federal government is ultimately taxpayer money that should be used  
as judiciously as possible.

<sup>7</sup> The preceding graph in the DOE Report shows that the output from a wet-cooled plant  
remains constant as the temperature increases. Appendix A, p.viii (Figure 4).



1 Report estimates the cost penalty of a hybrid system at five to eight percent. DOE Report,  
2 at 14 & 17 (Table 2). A hybrid system would require HVS to construct a combination  
3 cooling system with both dry *and* wet cooling components. Tr. at 163:18-25. The dry  
4 cooling component would have the same issues with parasitic load and inefficiency at high  
5 temperatures as discussed in the preceding paragraphs.  
6

7 All three of these effects -- higher capital costs, larger parasitic load, and decreased  
8 efficiency -- increase the levelized cost of electricity from a dry- or hybrid-cooled CSP  
9 plant as compared to a wet-cooled plant. The higher cost of energy associated with dry  
10 and hybrid cooling has a far greater impact on a Project's chances for success than just the  
11 system's capital costs because, in the competitive process of procuring a PPA, generators  
12 bid based on their levelized cost of energy. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 110:7-8, 114:10-13. For  
13 instance, requiring dry or hybrid cooling would put this Mohave County-based plant at a  
14 clear competitive disadvantage to CSP plants that have already been approved with wet  
15 cooling using groundwater, including some in Arizona. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 232:15-20.  
16

17 B. This is a wet-cooled project.  
18

19 HVS is far into negotiations for a PPA and for an engineering, procurement, and  
20 construction ("EPC") contract, and has reached an advanced stage of the DOE loan  
21 guarantee program. Tr. at 123:7-25; § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 78:11-79:20, 207:25-208:5. All  
22 of these negotiations and prequalifications are based on the Project using wet cooling. Tr.  
23 at 123:7-25.  
24  
25  
26

1 In addition, Mr. Bartlett explained during the § 40-252 hearing that requiring the  
2 Project to use dry or hybrid cooling would cause serious problems with obtaining  
3 financing, primarily because there are no utility-scale solar thermal dry- or hybrid-cooled  
4 plants operating in the world today. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 231:23-237:1, 236:8-237:1.

6 **III. CEC Condition No. 4 regarding effluent should not be changed.**

7 Condition No. 4 of the current CEC issued by the Commission adequately and  
8 appropriately addresses the Project's planned use of effluent as its primary water source.  
9 This condition requires HVS to "use effluent for cooling and all other non-potable water  
10 uses to the extent it is made available by the City of Kingman from its Hilltop [WWTP]  
11 and can be transported by the Applicant and at the Applicant's expense to the Project site."  
12 It also requires HVS to enter into a contract with the City "for sale, transmission and use  
13 of effluent generated by the Hilltop WWTP" within two years from the Commission's  
14 approval of the CEC. This condition appropriately addresses the issue because it requires  
15 HVS to sign a purchase agreement with the City within two years of issuance of the CEC  
16 and to use as much effluent as possible. At the same time, the condition does not require  
17 HVS be at the mercy of contingencies beyond its control.

21 As an alternative to dry cooling, Ms. Bensusan requests that the Commission revisit  
22 its decision and require "that HVS actually uses every ounce of effluent that is produced  
23 by the City of Kingman." Bensusan Response at 4. If adopted, this condition would  
24 prohibit the City of Kingman from selling effluent to additional parties or using it for other  
25 purposes. As an example of one such conflict, the Mayor of Kingman, John Salem,  
26

1 testified during the § 40-252 hearing that the City is required by ADEQ to divert some of  
2 the effluent to certain wetlands.

3 A condition requiring the Project to use *only* effluent would not be feasible either.  
4 As explained by Mr. Bartlett during the June hearing, the Hilltop WWTP is owned and  
5 operated by the City of Kingman and HVS has no way of influencing how much effluent it  
6 produces or when it operates.<sup>8</sup> § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 193:1-4. In addition, there could be  
7 circumstances beyond HVS' control that would prevent HVS from being able to use  
8 effluent produced by the WWTP. If the Commission adopts a condition that the Project  
9 use only effluent and, *for any reason*, the Project does not receive enough effluent for its  
10 cooling needs, the Project would have to shut down, depriving the region of a significant,  
11 on-peak renewable generator and possibly subjecting HVS to substantial monetary  
12 penalties under the PPA.  
13  
14  
15

16 Because of these factors, HVS' witnesses testified that a more restrictive condition  
17 regarding the Project's use of effluent would hurt the Project's chances of securing  
18 financing. Tr. at 129:21-131:16; § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 67:19-25, 192:8-19.  
19

20 **IV. Other concerns raised by Ms. Bayer have been, or can be, addressed.**

21 Many of Ms. Bayer's "non-water" concerns are addressed by the existing CEC, but  
22 a few warrant additional comment.  
23  
24

25 <sup>8</sup> Ms. Bayer makes several allegations regarding the amount of effluent that will be  
26 available to the Project but provides no citations to the record. The Mayor's discussion  
about available effluent can be found at 254:25-256:3, 259:4-21 of the transcript from the  
Committee hearing, and 267:13-270:20 of the § 40-252 proceeding transcript.

1    A. Environmental Impact Statement

2           Ms. Bayer requested a condition making the CEC approval “subject to a timely  
3 submitted environmental impact study that explains adequate care has been taken to  
4 protect all wildlife in the area, including bats.” Bayer Response, Requested Condition  
5 No. 3. Ms. Bayer’s concern will be addressed by the completion of the National  
6 Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process for the Project, which is required by federal  
7 law. In fact, current CEC Condition No. 3 mandates such compliance. Michael Warner  
8 testified during the June hearing that he is in the process of preparing an Environmental  
9 Impact Statement (“EIS”) for the Project in coordination with the Bureau of Land  
10 Management and the Western Area Power Administration, which is part of the federal  
11 DOE. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 83:25-84:12, 84:22-24. Mr. Warner also testified that the  
12 Environmental Protection Agency will review the draft EIS and may provide comments.  
13 § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 84:13-16, 102:1-4.

14    B. Protection of bats

15           Ms. Bayer expressed a concern that the Project could harm various species of bats  
16 by releasing particulate matter (“PM”) into the air as water evaporates and that such PM  
17 could be toxic to bats. Bayer Response at 2-3; *see also* § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 145:14-  
18 147:4. Emissions of PM-10 will be addressed in the air permit that the Project will obtain  
19 from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (“ADEQ”). In addition, the EIS  
20 will include an analysis of the Project’s expected impacts on bats. *See* Direct Prefiled  
21 Testimony of Michael Warner (Exhibit HVS-12 to Committee hearing), at 4-5. Ms. Bayer

1 did not provide evidence for her assertion that this PM could harm bats and, in response to  
2 her questions on this topic during the § 40-252 hearing, Mr. Warner stated that he is “not  
3 aware of any studies anywhere that suggest that bats are dying as a result of eating dust.”  
4 § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 146:4-5. In any event, at the instigation of Siting Committee  
5 Member Mundell, the existing CEC adopts the State Fish & Game Department’s  
6 recommendation with respect to bats. Condition No. 16; *see also* Condition No. 15. In  
7 sum, Ms. Bayer’s concerns about bats will be adequately addressed by the air permit from  
8 ADEQ, the federal NEPA process, and these two CEC conditions.  
9

10  
11 C. Fire protection plan

12 Ms. Bayer also requests a condition making the CEC approval “subject to HVS  
13 submitting a fire protection and emergency plan.” Bayer Response, Requested Condition  
14 No. 4. Mr. LaRow testified during the June hearing that the Project will include fire  
15 protection and emergency components. § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 148:25-149:6. HVS is  
16 willing to file a final description of such components with the Commission before the  
17 Project commences operations.  
18

19  
20 D. County roads

21 Finally, Ms. Bayer requested a condition addressing “[t]he excessive use of the  
22 roads by the semi trucks that will be necessary to build HVS.” Bayer Response,  
23 Requested Condition No. 5. During the June hearing, Mr. Bartlett testified that HVS will  
24 “do what is required by the county in terms of permitting for roads or infrastructure  
25 upgrades.” § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 177:7-8. Similarly, Mr. LaRow explained that this issue  
26

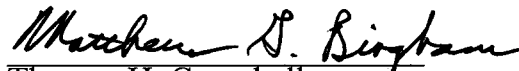
1 is "something ... the county would decide based on based on existing regulations or permit  
2 requirements." § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 177:15-17. Later during the hearing, Ms. Ballard,  
3 testified that the County's general policy is "that any improvements and infrastructure  
4 would be borne by the Applicant." § 40-252 Proc. Tr. at 301:11-12. Ms. Ballard's  
5 testimony addresses Ms. Bayer's concerns that the County not unduly bear costs that are  
6 typically borne by developers. This approach is also fair to HVS because it provides for  
7 HVS to be treated in the same way as other businesses and developers in Mohave County.  
8  
9

### 10 Conclusion

11 HVS has demonstrated that there is sufficient groundwater available to operate the  
12 Project as a wet-cooled facility. In addition, HVS is committed to using available effluent.  
13 Neither dry nor hybrid cooling is appropriate in this case for the reasons described above.  
14 HVS respectfully requests that this matter be placed on the August Open Meeting agenda  
15 and the stay be lifted so that this Project may proceed.  
16  
17

18 RESPECTFULLY submitted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010.

19 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

20  
21 

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**ORIGINAL** and twenty (20) copies of the foregoing filed this ~~5<sup>th</sup>~~ day of August, 2010, with:

The Arizona Corporation Commission  
Utilities Division – Docket Control  
1200 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**COPY** of the foregoing hand delivered this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010, to:

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6 **COPY** of the foregoing served electronically  
7 this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010 to:

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21 



**ATTACHMENT**

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# Findings

- Only a minute fraction of groundwater stored in Hualapai Valley is currently used
  - Projected impacts to existing wells by the proposed HVS pumping would meet the stringent criteria imposed by the State for AMAs
  - After 30 years, the projected impact of HVS pumping is not substantial and is much less than one foot of water level change in the Kingman, Dolan Springs, and Valle Vista areas
  - The amount of available groundwater set aside by ADWR for the HVS site land is about twice as much as HVS intends to use annually
  - There is sufficient water available in the aquifer to meet the water needs for the life of the Project without significantly impacting other existing groundwater users
-